

Appl. No. : **10/706,346**
Filed : **November 12, 2003**

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-21, and 86-109 were considered by the Examiner. In this paper, Applicant has amended Claims 3-21, 86-98, and 104-109. Applicant has canceled Claim 1. No new Claims have been added. Therefore, Claims 3-21 and 86-109 remain pending. No new matter has been added with the amendments herein.

Summary of Office Action Electronically Delivered March 26, 2007 and Supplemental Office Action Electronically Delivered May 29, 2007

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated Claims 10 and 11 to be allowed, and Claims 7 and 99-103 to be allowable. The Examiner objected to Claim 106 for an improper dependency. The Examiner also rejected Claims 1, 3-6, 8-9, 12-13, 18, 21, 86-98, 104, and 107-109 as being anticipated by Maria van Erp (U.S. Patent No. 6,102,891). The Examiner rejected Claims 14-17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Maria van Erp in view of Hedge (U.S. Patent No. 6,231,543). The Examiner rejected Claims 105 and 106 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Maria van Erp.

Regarding the Objection to Claim 106

Applicants have amended Claim 106 to clarify the dependency thereof. Therefore, Applicants submit that the objection to Claim 106 should be withdrawn.

Regarding the Claim Rejections

Rejections Based on Anticipation by Maria van Erp

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-6, 8-9, 12-13, 18, 21, 86-98, 104, and 107-109 as being anticipated by Maria van Erp. Applicants have canceled Claim 1. Applicants have amended Claims 3-6, 8-9, 12-13, 18, 21, 86-98, 104, and 107-109 to depend from one of Claim 7 and Claim 11, each of which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Therefore, these claims are allowable for at least the reasons Claims 7 and 11 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these claim rejections.

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Rejections Based on Obviousness over Maria van Erp

The Examiner rejected Claims 14-17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Maria van Erp in view of Hedge (U.S. Patent No. 6,231,543). The Examiner rejected Claims 105 and 106 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Maria van Erp. Applicants have amended Claims 14-17, 19-20, 105, and 106, and Claims 13, 18, and 104, from which the rejected Claims depend such that Claims 14-17, 19-20, 105, and 106 depend from Claim 11. Claim 11 was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 14-17, 19-20, 105, and 106 are allowable for at least the reasons that Claim 11 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants have amended Claims 7, 10, and 11 to be written in independent form. Claims 3-6, 8-9, 12-21, and 86-109 depend from one of Claims 7 and 11 and recite additional limitations thereon. Therefore, these claims are allowable at least because they depend from an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims of the present application are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If, however, any questions remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned so that any such matter may be promptly resolved.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections and the Examiner's assertions regarding what the prior art shows or teaches, even if not expressly discussed herein. Although changes to the claims have been made, no acquiescence or estoppel is or should be implied thereby; such amendments are made only to expedite prosecution of the present application and are without prejudice to the presentation or assertion, in the future, of claims relating to the same or similar subject matter.

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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMEND

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